

Digna Laclé -Herrera proves to her devoted fans that it is never too late



Noted Aruban teacher, writer, and poet Digna Laclé-Herrera has entertained and enlightened Aruban readers for years with her works that have been published in various magazines and newspapers. Her lively and candid wit has endeared her to many on the island, and on Tuesday evening, the introduction of her first book of collected works, titled "Proverbionan" (Proverbs) was well attended.

Born on Curaçao, Digna has made her home on Aruba for many years, the majority

of it as a teacher and a political activist. Digna was one of the first women to be involved in island politics, serving as a member of the AVP party. She served as a member of Parliament from 1986 until 1989 when she chose to retire from the political scene. At that time she began devoting her energies towards community activism, and being involved with organizations such as "Unitas," which is dedicated to helping children and the Imeldahof center. Another

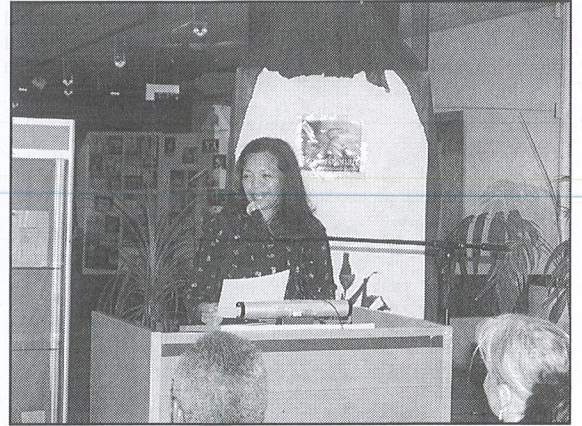
organization to benefit from her attention was ORFA, which attempts to educate women and set them on the right path.

Soon after retirement, Digna's prose and poetry began appearing in various local papers, and she developed a following. A gathering of devoted fans at the National Library in Oranjestad enjoyed some samples of Digna's insights as recited by Rubi Eckmeyer, representing the Ministry of Culture. An exposition devoted to Digna and her works is now on display in the entry hall of the library. Digna came to the podium to thank all that were attending and to regal them with some excerpts from her book. Throughout her career as a writer she has often expressed her love for the beauty of her native language, Papiamentu, and she did so that night. An appreciative audience lined up afterwards to purchase copies of her new book, and to have it inscribed by the author.

A number of individuals who assisted Digna in this venture and over the years



Digna Laclé-Herrera



were thanked with the awarding of a complimentary copy of "Proverbionan." Aside from Rubi Eckmeyer, Lillian Semeleer, Acting Director of the National Library, Minerva Geerman of Fondo Desaroyo Aruba and Rosleen Oduber, Director of Department of Education received copies. Dear friends and fellow writers that have inspired and assisted her over the years, and in this venture in particular, were also honored. Margo Croes, Frank Williams, Sheila Werleman and Belen Kock-Marchena also received their personally inscribed copies of "Prover-

bionan."

Digna Lacle-Herrera's book has been published with the cooperation of UNOCA, (Union Organizacion Cultural Arubano) and UNOCA President Nilda Koolman acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

Quite a fuss was made about the fact that finally, at the age of eighty Digna has seen fit to share her wry and pointed observances of life, entailing individual virtues and foibles. That it has been published in this attractive volume, proves that it truly is never to late too enlighten and entertain!